

**BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

In the Matter of the Public Reprimand )  
of the Educator Certificate of )  
Perry L. Berenson )  
Certificate 213055 )

**CONSENT ORDER  
OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND**

**SUMMARY OF THE CASE**

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on March 12, 2008. On January 2, 2008, the State Department of Education (Department) sent a notice of the possible action against his South Carolina Educator Certificate (Certificate) to Perry L. Berenson by certified mail, restricted delivery, and return receipt requested. Mr. Berenson received this notice as evidenced by a signed postal receipt dated January 8, 2008. On January 9, 2008, Mr. Berenson called the Department and stated that he wished to waive his right to a hearing. Mr. Berenson has proposed to resolve this matter without a hearing by agreeing to the following terms: (1) a public reprimand will be issued by the State Board, (2) this public reprimand will be reported to all school districts in South Carolina with the grounds listed as "unprofessional conduct," and (3) this order will be posted on the Department's web site and shall be maintained as a public record in the Office of General Counsel of the Department. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to issue a Consent Order of Public Reprimand on the terms set forth above.

Accepted:

*PB*  
Initial Here

Date:

3-3-08

Perry L.  
Berenson  
#213055

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

Mr. Berenson holds a valid South Carolina teaching certificate and has over five years of teaching experience. Mr. Berenson was hired by the Greenville County School District (District) to teach Math at Hillcrest High School (School) on a continuing contract for the 2007-2008 school year. On September 5, 2007, Mr. Berenson resigned from employment as a result of allegations that he

engaged in unprofessional conduct by making inappropriate remarks in the presence of students. Mr. Berenson has no prior record of disciplinary action with the Department.

During an interview with Principal Steve Chamness, Mr. Berenson admitted that he had made the inappropriate comments and that he had been under a considerable amount of stress in his personal life. After his resignation from the District, Mr. Berenson voluntarily received treatment and counseling. The Department has received documentation that Mr. Berenson has successfully completed counseling and is able to resume his normal workload.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

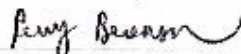
"The State Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004), S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Regs. (Supp. 2006). The Board finds that the substantial evidence presented supports its conclusion that just cause does not exist to suspend or revoke Perry L. Berenson's educator certificate; however, just cause does exist for a Public Reprimand of Mr. Berenson's conduct. Accordingly, the State Board issues this Consent Order of Public Reprimand as set forth above.

South Carolina State Board of Education

  
Al Simpson, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina  
March 12, 2008

I, Perry L. Berenson, SC Educator Certificate #213035, have read the Consent Order of Public Reprimand, consisting of two pages, and I freely and voluntarily agree to the terms set forth therein. I understand that this Order will be presented as signed to the State Board of Education on Wednesday, March 12, 2008.

  
Signature

3-3-08  
Date